



Water Quality NewsFlash

Published by California Department of Transportation, Division of Environmental Analysis, Office of Water Quality

August 16, 2004

Number 04-32

Ocean Plan Amendments – State to proceed with two issues – In January, the State Water Resources Control Board held a scoping meeting regarding four potential changes to the Ocean Plan. The meeting revealed extensive controversy and the Board directed its staff to reopen the Triennial Review process to identify any other issues needing to be addressed. The staff have now proposed the two less controversial of the original amendments:

- *Choice of Indicator Organisms for Water-Contact Bacterial Standards*: adding enterococcus as an indicator and related monitoring changes; and
- *Reasonable Potential*: determining when constituents in a discharge have a “reasonable potential” to exceed Ocean Plan objectives. These constituents must have limitations.

The other two original issues (standards for shellfish beds and discharge requirements for *State Water Quality Protection Areas* - formerly *Areas of Special Biological Significance*) and any new issues will be addressed later. Comments are due Sept. 17. Posted (page down to items marked “New!”): <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/plnspols/oplans/index.html#2004opa>

LA Sewer Spills – City agrees to settlement – In 1998, Santa Monica BayKeeper filed a court action against the City alleging an excessive number of sewer spills. These spills typically enter storm drains or waterways and may eventually pollute the shoreline. The City has had over 4,500 sewage spills since 1994. U.S. EPA and the Regional Board joined the action against the City in 2001. The City has now agreed to a settlement that requires them to rebuild nearly 500 miles of sewer lines and clean other sewers. In addition, the City will pay \$800,000 to the Federal Government and another \$800,000 in state penalties, which will be directed to local environmental improvement projects.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/r9press.nsf/7f3f954af9cce39b882563fd0063a09c/4f2d2d7d7dca993b88256ee800608dd7!OpenDocument>

Over the last three years, the City of San Diego has significantly reduced the frequency of spills from its sewer system. To assist this effort, a San Diego area environmental group sponsors “Canyon Watch” whereby volunteers periodically patrol for broken sewer lines:

<http://www.sdoceans.org/programs/canyonwatch/canyons.php>

The impact of sewer line breaks on beach closures can be significant in some areas but is generally considered to be less significant than dry and wet weather discharges from separate storm sewers.

Upcoming:

- **Meeting - California Stormwater Quality Association** – *Topic*: Effectiveness of post-construction BMPs; Friday, Sept. 10, 9 am - 3 p.m.; Hilton Ontario Airport; fee: \$50 (non-members) paid at the door, includes lunch. <http://www.casqa.org/>
- **Training Workshops – SWRCB: Construction Site Planning and Management** – various locations, September through December. <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/training.html>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>